

NINA (Weyer) JOHNSON

Thrown a Fast Pitch after College: The Little League has Changed Nina's View on Life

Graduate: Class of 1999 Occupation: Assistant Central Region Director
By Kara Oser, Spring, 2009

A perfect regional tournament would include the following: sunny day, no rain in sight, great baseball games, no complaints from volunteers, spectators, managers-just kids having fun playing baseball.

Held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the Little League World Series is the massive event that Nina looks forward to every year. The Little League International Tournament kicks off the start to the World Series. At the International Tournament, she serves as the Assistant Director for the Great Lakes and Midwest Tournaments, held in Indianapolis. The two age group tournaments last about two weeks. Then the two winners travel to Williamsport for the World Series.

Spending two to three weeks at Pennsylvania, Nina plays a different role at the World Series. She works with popular media outlets such as ABC and ESPN arranging interviews for both players and managers.

Nina (Weyer) Johnson graduated from Forest park in 1999. During her high school years, Nina was active in three sports: volleyball, basketball, and softball. Along with her time-consuming athletic schedule, she served as a class officer and student council for four years-and as student council president her senior year. She also balance her time with National Honor Society, Beta Club, and Students Against Destructive Decisions. Nina graduated from Ball State in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Administration and a minor in Business Administration and then moved to the east coast. Nina moved back to Indianapolis, Indiana-two years later-and is the Assistant Central Region Director of Little League Baseball Incorporated in Indianapolis. Employed over two years, Little League Baseball Incorporated is originally out of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The company mission states, "to promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League Baseball and Softball." The Little League "helps develop and superior citizens rather than superior athletes."

During the workday, Nina offers service and support to all the local league volunteers. She spends significant time by communicating with people. Over 1, 100 Little League organizations in the 13 states-Nina travels throughout the 13 states to

Speak with the local volunteers in each area that make up the region. When the baseball season is just about to begin, Nina spends much of her time processing paperwork and speaking with volunteers. During the off-season, Nina trains volunteers to prepare them for when the season begins.

Nina had positive advice to share, “Slow down and don't rush you youth; listen to your parents and teachers. Enjoy the times with your friends. But remember that friends come and go. Enjoy the memories; they fade too quickly. Focus on education and don't be afraid to dream big. Always be nice to people... even sometimes when you don't want to. You never know when it will pay off.”